

Community Game Update 14/09/21 - Rugby is back



Pitch Up for Rugby Success

Thank you to everyone who joined the national celebration of rugby's return over the past couple of weeks, which saw over 800 Pitch Up events running in addition to the opening fixtures of the season.

We'd love to hear your stories so please share your **#PitchUpForRugby** event photos with @EnglandRugby or email ChrisDodd@RFU.com with any news stories.

Now the new season is underway, the Community Game Update will be issued fortnightly. The next edition will be sent on **Tuesday 28 September**.

≡ PDF Copy of CGU available to download

≡ Electronic Match Cards Reminder before this weekend

≡ Age Grade Rugby Changes 2021-22

≡ Speak Up

≡ What's next post Pitch Up? Including webinar

PDF Copy of CGU available to download

A PDF of this Community Game Update is available to download below if you prefer to read the CGU in one document.

Electronic Match Cards Reminder before this weekend

As more clubs start their league seasons this week, a reminder of the updated [Electronic Match Cards \(EMC\)](#) page, which houses step-by-step support guides as well as information on who to contact should there be any issues.

- [Step-by-step Guide for Levels 5-8 on Desktop](#)
- [Step-by-step Guide for Levels 5-8 for Mobile](#)
- [Top Tips for using Electronic Match Card](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions on Electronic Match Card](#)

After the extended break, please take a look through the materials for a refresher.

This is also a reminder that all players must be assigned to the corresponding squad before they can be added to a team's EMC line-up.

For players to be available to be selected, they must be assigned to the corresponding team's squad in the Team Management section of GMS.

[Step-by-step Guide to assigning players](#)

Points to note:

- There is no limit to the number of players that can be assigned to a specific team.

- The 100 effectively registered player limit does, however, remain.
- A player being assigned to a team that requires effective registration does not make that player effectively registered. **Therefore, please ensure that your players are effectively registered, where appropriate.**
- Newly affiliated (age-grade)/effectively registered (adult) players must be put into the playing squad before being put into the corresponding team's line-up on EMC.
- As long as they are eligible by age/gender, there are no limits to the number of teams that an individual player can be assigned to within a club.
- Players can be allocated to a team en masse, as detailed in the guide above.
- Once a player has been assigned to a team, they will not need to be reassigned unless the club chooses.
- Players no longer require a '**non-registered**' player role to be assigned to a team. Instead, the Electronic Match Card will allow players to be selected that have been added to the 'Playing Squad' list inside the Team Management module for each team. Please note, players cannot be created directly through the EMC and need to be created in GMS and subsequently allocated to the appropriate team.

For any queries, please get in touch with competitions-development@rfu.com

Age Grade Rugby Changes 2021-22

With the season underway across clubs, schools and colleges, a reminder of changes to the Age Grade regulations is available on the [Return to Rugby page](#).

A key change is the delayed shift to the next set of age grade rules until 1st January 2022. This means everyone still moves up an age (e.g. U9s become Under 10s) but play the rules and progressions they missed last season first. Age Grade rules of play are in the Appendices of [Regulation 15](#). This applies to the mixed (U7-11) and boys (U12+) game. Girls U13, 15 and 18 bands play to their normal rules with specific guidance available to ensure safe player progression [here](#).

There is a need to:

- Support players (mostly in one-term rugby schools) that do not usually play rugby after December and
- Introduce and develop new skills safely in training before 1st January 2022.

Therefore, **from 1st November 2021**, the new set of rules can be **introduced in training**. This includes playing internal training matches to help players apply the skills in a game. From 1st January 2022, everyone moves to their new rules. For further detail, please read the [Age Grade Changes](#).

Finally, online Age Grade Affiliation is also underway. After this weekend 51,000 players across more than 700 clubs have affiliated – a great effort from everyone involved! There are guides and support for parents and club volunteers on the [Help Portal](#).

Speak Up

Rugby is a game for everyone. Inclusivity is at the heart of our sport, our values and our rugby community. We are committed to ensuring a rugby experience that is free from all forms of discrimination and abuse.

The RFU is committed to developing a culture where it is safe and acceptable for everyone involved in rugby union to raise concerns about any unacceptable practice, behaviour, wrongdoing or misconduct.

If you feel you have been subjected to discriminatory behaviour, it is essential you report this via our Speak Up channels which are listed on the page below:

<https://www.englandrugby.com/about-rfu/rfu-policies/speak-up-policy>

What's next post Pitch Up? Including webinar



As the initial Pitch Up For Rugby weeks draw to a close, we're keen to keep momentum going and will soon move to our 'Back in the Game' campaign which will focus on encouraging Social XV players to head back to their clubs.

New social media assets to help clubs retain and attract players will be available via [England Rugby resources](#) by the end of next week.

In the meantime, please feel free to share our return to rugby video with your members, playing and non-playing, to create a buzz and to remind everyone of what being part of the rugby community gives you. The video is available via the following [@EnglandRugby](#) channels: ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#))



'Pitch Up for Rugby' Video

COACH AND REFEREE WEBINAR

#PitchUpForRugby Coaches and Referees

Date: 20/09/2021

Start Time: 7.00pm

This webinar with England **Rugby Match Official Development Officer, Andrew Small** and **Coach Development Manager, Phil Kearns** explores the return to play and what is available to support the players you work with as you get back into coaching and refereeing.

Register